

A
DISSERTATION
ON
ORIENTAL GARDENING.

BY
SIR WILLIAM CHAMBERS, KNT.
Comptroller General of His MAJESTY'S WORKS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,
AN HEROIC EPISTLE,
IN ANSWER TO
SIR WILLIAM CHAMBERS,
KNIGHT,

AUTHOR of a late DISSERTATION ON
ORIENTAL GARDENING.

Enriched with Explanatory Notes, chiefly extracted from
that elaborate Performance.

Non omnes arbuta juvant, humilesque myricæ. VIRGIL.

The ELEVENTH EDITION.

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T O
T H E K I N G.

I HUMBLY beg leave to lay at Your MAJESTY's feet the following Dissertation upon an Art of which You are the first Judge, as well as the most munificent Encourager.

A Sketch of the present little Performance was graciously received by Your MAJESTY many years ago, and found a kind reception in the world, under the influence of your Patronage. This is more ample; I wish it may be more perfect than the original; that it may have a juster title to Your Indulgence, and better pretensions to the favour of the Publick.

I AM,

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

YOUR MAJESTY'S DUTIFUL SERVANT,

AND FAITHFUL SUBJECT,

WILLIAM CHAMBERS.

P R E F A C E.

AMONGST the decorative arts, there is none of which the influence is so extensive as that of Gardening. The productions of other arts have their separate classes of admirers, who alone relish or set any great value upon them; to the rest of the world they are indifferent, sometimes disgusting. A building affords no pleasure to the generality of men, but what results from the grandeur of the object, or the value of its materials: nor doth a picture affect them, but by its resemblance to life. A thousand other beauties, of a higher kind, are lost upon them; for in Architecture, in Painting, and indeed in most other arts, men must learn before they can admire: their pleasure keeps pace with their judgment; and it is only by knowing much, that they can be highly delighted.

But Gardening is of a different nature: its dominion is general; its effects upon the human mind certain and invariable; without any previous information, without being taught, all men are delighted with the gay luxuriant scenery of summer, and depressed at the dismal aspect of autumnal prospects; the charms of cultivation are equally sensible to the ignorant and the learned, and they are equally disgusted at the rudeness of neglected nature; lawns, woods, shrubberies, rivers and mountains, affect them both in the same manner; and every combi-

nation of these will excite similar sensations in the minds of both.

Nor are the productions of this Art less permanent than general in their effects. Pictures, statues, buildings, soon glut the sight, and grow indifferent to the spectator: but in gardens there is a continual state of fluctuation, that leaves no room for satiety; the progress of vegetation, the vicissitudes of seasons, the changes of the weather, the different directions of the sun, the passage of clouds, the agitation and sounds produced by winds, together with the accidental intervention of living or moving objects, vary the appearances so often, and so considerably, that it is almost impossible to be cloyed, even with the same prospects.

Is it not singular then, that an Art with which a considerable part of our enjoyments is so universally connected, should have no regular professors in our quarter of the world? Upon the continent it is a collateral branch of the architect's employment, who, immersed in the study and avocations of his own profession, finds no leisure for other disquisitions; and, in this island, it is abandoned to kitchen gardeners, well skilled in the culture of sallads, but little acquainted with the principles of Ornamental Gardening. It cannot be expected that men uneducated, and doomed by their condition to waste the vigor of life in hard labour, should ever go far in so refined, so difficult a pursuit.

To this unaccountable want of regular masters may, in a great measure, be ascribed the scarcity of perfect gardens. There are indeed very few in our part of the globe wherein nature has been improved to the best advantage, or art employed with

the soundest judgment. The gardens of Italy, France, Germany, Spain, and of all the other countries where the antient style still prevails, are in general mere cities of verdure; the walks are like streets conducted in strait lines, regularly diverging from different large open spaces, resembling public squares; and the hedges with which they are bordered, are raised, in imitation of walls, adorned with pilasters, niches, windows and doors, or cut into colonades, arcades and porticos; all the detached trees are shaped into obelisks, pyramids and vases; and all the recesses in the thickets bear the names and forms of theatres, amphitheatres, temples, banqueting halls, ball rooms, cabinets and saloons. The streets and squares are well manned with statues of marble or lead, ranged in regular lines, like soldiers at a procession; which, to make them more natural, are sometimes painted in proper colours, and finely gilt. The lakes and rivers are confined by quais of hewn stone, and taught to flow in geometrick order; and the cascades glide from the heights by many a succession of marble steps: not a twig is suffered to grow as nature directs; nor is a form admitted but what is scientific, and determinable by the line or compass.

In England, where this antient style is held in detestation, and where, in opposition to the rest of Europe, a new manner is universally adopted, in which no appearance of art is tolerated, our gardens differ very little from common fields, so closely is common nature copied in most of them; there is generally so little variety in the objects, such a poverty of imagination in the contrivance, and of art in the arrangement, that these compositions rather appear the offspring of chance than design; and a stranger is often at a loss to know whether he be walking in a meadow, or in a pleasure ground,

made and kept at a very considerable expence : he sees nothing to amuse him, nothing to excite his curiosity, nor any thing to keep up his attention. At his first entrance, he is treated with the sight of a large green field, scattered over with a few straggling trees, and verged with a confused border of little shrubs and flowers ; upon farther inspection, he finds a little serpentine path, twining in regular esses amongst the shrubs of the border, upon which he is to go round, to look on one side at what he has already seen, the large green field ; and on the other side at the boundary, which is never more than a few yards from him, and always obtruding upon his sight : from time to time he perceives a little seat or temple stuck up against the wall ; he rejoices at the discovery, sits down, rests his wearied limbs, and then reels again, cursing the line of beauty, till spent with fatigue, half roasted by the sun, for there is never any shade, and tired for want of entertainment, he resolves to see no more : vain resolution ! there is but one path ; he must either drag on to the end, or return back by the tedious way he came.

Such is the favourite plan of all our smaller gardens : and our larger works are only a repetition of the small ones ; more green fields, more shrubberies, more serpentine walks, and more seats ; like the honest batchelor's feast, which consisted in nothing but a multiplication of his own dinner ; three legs of mutton and turneps, three roasted geese, and three buttered apple-pies.

It is I think obvious that neither the artful nor the simple style of Gardening here mentioned, is right : the one being too extravagant a deviation from nature ; the other too scrupulous an adherence to her. One manner is absurd ; the other insipid

and vulgar : a judicious mixture of both would certainly be more perfect than either.

But how this union can be effected, is difficult to say. The men of art, and the friends of nature, are equally violent in defence of their favourite system ; and, like all other partizans, loth to give up any thing, however unreasonable.

Such a coalition is therefore now not to be expected : whoever should be bold enough to attempt it, would probably incur the censure of both sides, without reforming either ; and consequently prejudice himself, without doing service to the Art.

But though it might be impertinent as well as useless to start a new system of one's own, it cannot be improper, nor totally unserviceable, to publish that of others ; especially of a people whose skill in Gardening has often been the subject of praise ; and whose manner has been set up amongst us as the standard of imitation, without ever having been properly defined. It is a common saying, That from the worst things some good may be extracted ; and even if what I have to relate should be inferior to what is already known, yet surely some useful hints may be collected from it.

I may therefore, without danger to myself, and it is hoped without offence to others, offer the following account of the Chinese manner of Gardening ; which is collected from my own observations in China, from conversations with the Artists, and remarks transmitted to me at different times by travellers. A sketch of what I have now attempted to finish, was published some years ago ; and the favourable reception granted to that little performance, induced me to collect materials for this.

Whether the Chinese manner of Gardening be better or worse than those now in use amongst the Europeans, I will not determine: comparison is the surest as well as the easiest test of truth; it is in every man's power to compare and to judge for himself.—Should the present publication contain any thing useful, my purpose will be fully answered; if not, it may perhaps afford some little entertainment, or serve at worst to kill an idle hour.

I must not enter upon my subject, without apologizing for the liberties here taken with our English Gardens: there are, indeed, several that do not come within the compass of my description; some of which were laid out by their owners, who are as eminently skilled in Gardening, as in many other branches of polite knowledge; the rest owe most of their excellence to nature, and are, upon the whole, very little improved by the interposition of art; which, though it may have heightened some of their beauties, has totally robbed them of many others.

It would be tedious to enumerate all the errors of a false taste: but the havock it has made in our old plantations, must ever be remembered with indignation: the ax has often, in one day, laid waste the growth of several ages; and thousands of venerable plants, whole woods of them, have been swept away, to make room for a little grass, and a few American weeds. Our virtuosi have scarcely left an acre of shade, nor three trees growing in a line, from the Land's-end to the Tweed; and if their humour for devastation continues to rage much longer, there will not be a forest-tree left standing in the whole kingdom.

DISSERTATION.

AMONGST the Chinese, Gardening is held in much higher esteem, than it is in Europe; they rank a perfect work in that Art, with the great productions of the human understanding; and say, that its efficacy in moving the passions, yields to that of few other arts whatever.

Their Gardeners are not only Botanists, but also Painters and Philosophers, having a thorough knowledge of the human mind, and of the arts by which its strongest feelings are excited. It is not in China, as in Italy and France, where every petty Architect is a Gardener; neither is it as in another famous country, where peasants emerge from the melon grounds to commence professors; so Sganarelle, the faggot-maker, laid down his hatchet to turn physician. In China, Gardening is a distinct profession, requiring an extensive study; to the perfection of which few arrive. The Gardeners there, far from being either ignorant or illiterate, are men of high abilities, who join to good natural parts, most ornaments that study, travelling, and long experience can supply them with: it is in consideration of these accomplishments only

that they are permitted to exercise their profession; for with the Chinese the taste of Ornamental Gardening is an object of legislative attention, it being supposed to have an influence upon the general culture, and consequently upon the beauty of the whole country. They observe, that mistakes committed in this Art, are too important to be tolerated, being much exposed to view, and in a great measure irreparable; as it often requires the space of a century, to redress the blunders of an hour.

The Chinese Gardeners take nature for their pattern; and their aim is to imitate all her beautiful irregularities. Their first consideration is the nature of the ground they are to work upon: whether it be flat or sloping; hilly or mountainous; small or of considerable extent; abounding with springs and rivers, or labouring under a scarcity of water; whether woody or bare, rough or even, barren or rich; and whether the transitions be sudden, and the character grand, wild or tremendous; or whether they be gradual, and the general bent placid, gloomy or chearful. To all which circumstances they carefully attend; choosing such dispositions as humour the ground, hide its defects, improve or set off its advantages, and can be executed with expedition, at a moderate expence.

They are also attentive to the wealth or indigence of the patron by whom they are employed; to his age, his infirmities, temper, amusements, connections, business and manner of living; as likewise to the season of the year in which the Garden is likely to be most frequented by him: suiting themselves in their composition to his circumstances, and providing for his wants and

recreations. Their skill consists in struggling with the imperfections and defects of nature, and with every other impediment; and in producing, in spite of every obstacle, works that are uncommon, and perfect in their kind.

Though the Chinese artists have nature for their general model, yet are they not so attached to her, as to exclude all appearance of art; on the contrary, they think it, on many occasions, necessary to make an ostentatious shew of their labour. Nature, say they, affords us but few materials to work with. Plants, ground and water, are her only productions: and though both the forms and arrangements of these may be varied to an incredible degree, yet have they but few striking varieties, the rest being of the nature of changes rung upon bells, which, though in reality different, still produce the same uniform kind of jingling; the variation being too minute to be easily perceived.

Art must therefore supply the scantiness of nature; and not only be employed to produce variety, but also novelty and effect: for the simple arrangements of nature are met with in every common field, to a certain degree of perfection; and are therefore too familiar to excite any strong sensations in the mind of the beholder, or to produce any uncommon degree of pleasure.

It is indeed true that novelty and variety may both be attained by transplanting the peculiarities of one country to another; by introducing rocks, cataracts, impending woods, and other parts of romantic situations, in flat places; by employing much water where it is rare; and cultivated plains, amidst the rude irregularities of mountains: but

even this resource is easily exhausted, and can seldom be put in practice, without a very great expence.

The Chinese are therefore no enemies to strait lines; because they are, generally speaking, productive of grandeur, which often cannot be attained without them: nor have they any aversion to regular geometrical figures, which they say are beautiful in themselves, and well suited to small compositions, where the luxuriant irregularities of nature would fill up and embarrass the parts they should adorn. They likewise think them properest for flower gardens, and all other compositions, where much art is apparent in the culture; and where it should therefore not be omitted in the form.

Their regular buildings they generally surround with artificial terrasses, slopes, and many flights of steps; the angles of which are adorned with groupes of sculpture and vases, intermixed with all sorts of artificial water-works, which, connecting with the architecture, serve to give it consequence, and add to the gaiety, splendor, and bustle of the scenery.

Round the main habitation, and near all their decorated structures, the grounds are laid out with great regularity, and kept with great care: no plants are admitted that intercept the view of the buildings; nor no lines but such as accompany the architecture properly, and contribute to the general good effect of the whole composition: for they hold it absurd to surround an elegant fabric with disorderly rude vegetation; saying, that it looks like a diamond set in lead; and always conveys the idea of an unfinished work. When the buildings are rustic, the scenery

which surrounds them is wild; when they are grand, it is gloomy; when gay, it is luxuriant: in short, the Chinese are scrupulously nice in preserving the same character through every part of the composition; which is one great cause of that surprising variety with which their works abound.

They are fond of introducing statues, busts, bas-reliefs, and every production of the chisel, as well in other parts of their Gardens, as round their buildings; observing, that they are not only ornamental, but that by commemorating past events, and celebrated personages, they awaken the mind to pleasing contemplation, hurrying our reflections up into the remotest ages of antiquity: and they never fail to scatter antient inscriptions, verses, and moral sentences, about their grounds; which are placed on large ruined stones, and columns of marble, or engraved on trees and rocks; such situations being always chosen for them, as correspond with the sense of the inscriptions; which thereby acquire additional force in themselves, and likewise give a stronger expression to the scene.

They say that all these decorations are necessary, to characterize and distinguish the different scenes of their compositions; among which, without such assistance, there must unavoidably be a tiresome similarity.

And whenever it is objected to them, that many of these things are unnatural, and ought therefore not to be suffered, they say, that most improvements are unnatural, yet they are allowed to be improvements, and not only tolerated, but admired. Our vestments, say they, are neither of leather, nor like our skins, but formed of rich silks and em-

broidery; our houses and palaces bear no resemblance to caverns in the rocks, which are the only natural habitations; nor is our music either like thunder, or the whistling of the northern wind, the harmony of nature. Nature produces nothing either boiled, roasted or stewed, and yet we do not eat raw meat; nor doth she supply us with any other tools for all our purposes, but teeth and hands; yet we have saws, hammers, axes, and a thousand other implements: in short, there is scarcely any thing in which art is not apparent; and why should its appearance be excluded from Gardening only? Poets and painters soar above the pitch of nature, when they would give energy to their compositions. The same privilege, therefore, should be allowed to Gardeners: inanimate, simple nature, is too insipid for our purposes; much is expected from us; and therefore, we have occasion for every aid that either art or nature can furnish. The scenery of a garden should differ as much from common nature as an heroic poem doth from a prose relation; and Gardeners, like poets, should give a loose to their imagination, and even fly beyond the bounds of truth, whenever it is necessary to elevate, to embellish, to enliven, or to add novelty to their subject.

The usual method of distributing Gardens in China, is to contrive a great variety of scenes, to be seen from certain points of view; at which are placed seats or buildings, adapted to the different purposes of mental or sensual enjoyments. The perfection of their Gardens consists in the number and diversity of these scenes; and in the artful combination of their parts; which they endeavour to dispose in such a manner, as not only separately to appear to the best advantage, but also to unite in forming an elegant and striking whole.

Where the ground is extensive, and many scenes can be introduced, they generally adapt each to one single point of view; but where it is confined, and affords no room for variety, they dispose their objects so, that being viewed from different points, they produce different representations; and often such as bear no resemblance to each other. They likewise endeavour to place the separate scenes of their compositions in such directions as to unite, and be seen all together, from one or more particular points of view, whence the eye may be delighted with an extensive, rich and variegated prospect. They take all possible advantage of exterior objects; hiding carefully the boundaries of their own grounds; and endeavouring to make an apparent union between them and the distant woods, fields and rivers: and where towns, castles, towers, or any other considerable objects are in sight, they artfully contrive to have them seen from as many points, and in as many directions as possible. The same they do with regard to navigable rivers, high roads, foot-paths, mills, and all other moving objects, which animate and add variety to the landscape.

Besides the usual European methods of concealing boundaries by ha-has, and sunk fences, they have others, still more effectual. On flats, where they have naturally no prospects of exterior objects, they enclose their plantations with artificial terraces, in the form of walks, to which you ascend by insensible slopes: these they border on the inside with thickets of lofty trees and underwood; and on the outside, with low shrubberies; over which the passenger sees the whole scenery of the adjacent country, in appearance forming a continuation of the Garden, as its fence is carefully concealed

amongst the shrubs that cover the outside declivity of the terrafs.

And where the Garden happens to stand on higher ground than the adjacent country, they carry artificial rivers round the outskirts, under the opposite banks of which the boundaries are concealed, amongst trees and shrubs. Sometimes too they make use of strong wire fences, painted green, fastened to the trees and shrubs that border the plantations; and carried round in many irregular directions, which are scarcely seen till you come very near them: and wherever ha-has, or sunk fences are used, they always fill the trenches with briars, and other thorny plants, to strengthen the fence, and to conceal the walls, which otherwise would have an ugly appearance from without.

In their large Gardens they contrive different scenes for the different times of the day; disposing at the points of view buildings, which from their use point out the proper hour for enjoying the view in its perfections. And in their small ones, where, as has been observed, one arrangement produces many representations, they make use of the same artifice. They have beside, scenes for every season of the year: some for winter, generally exposed to the southern sun, and composed of pines, firs, cedars, evergreen oaks, phillyreas, hollies, yews, and many other evergreens; being enriched with laurels of various sorts, laurestinus, arbutus, and other plants and vegetables that grow and flourish in cold weather: and to give variety and gaiety to these gloomy productions, they plant amongst them, in regular forms, divided by walks, all the rare shrubs, flowers and trees of the torrid zone; which they cover, during the winter, with frames of glass,

disposed in the forms of temples, and other elegant buildings. These they call conservatories; they are warmed by subterraneous fires, and afford a comfortable and agreeable retreat, when the weather is too cold to walk in the open air. All sorts of beautiful and melodious birds are let loose in them: and they keep there, in large porcelain cisterns, placed on artificial rocks, gold and silver fishes; with various kinds of aquatic plants and flowers: they also raise in them strawberries, cherries, figs, grapes, apricots and peaches, which cover the wood work of their glass frames, and serve for ornament as well as use.

Their scenes of spring likewise abound with evergreens, intermixed with lilacks of all sorts, laburnums, limes, larixes, double blossomed thorn, almond and peach-trees; with sweet-bryar, early roses, and honey-suckles. The ground, and verges of the thickets and shrubberies, are adorned with wild hyacinths, wall-flowers, daffodils, violets, primroses, polianthes's, crocus's, daisies, snow-drops, and various species of the iris; with such other flowers as appear in the months of March and April: and as these scenes are also scanty in their natural productions, they intersperse amongst their plantations, menageries for all sorts of tame and ferocious animals, and birds of prey; aviaries and groves, with proper contrivances for breeding domestic fowls; decorated dairies; and buildings for the exercises of wrestling, boxing, quail-fighting, and other games known in China. They also contrive in the woods large open recesses for military sports; as riding, vaulting, fencing, shooting with the bow, and running.

Their summer scenes compose the richest and most studied parts of their Gardens. They abound with lakes, rivers, and water-works of every contrivance; and with vessels of every construction, calculated for the uses of sailing, rowing, fishing, fowling, and fighting. The woods consist of oak, beech, Indian chesnut, elm, ash, plane, sycamore, maple, abele, and several other species of the poplar; with many other trees, peculiar to China. The thickets are composed of every fair deciduous plant that grows in that climate, and every flower or shrub that flourishes during the summer months; all uniting to form the finest verdure, the most brilliant, harmonious colouring imaginable. The buildings are spacious, splendid and numerous; every scene being marked by one or more: some of them contrived for banquets, balls, concerts, learned disputations, plays, rope-dancing, and feats of activity; others again for bathing, swimming, reading, sleeping, or meditation.

In the center of these summer plantations, there is generally a large tract of ground set aside for more secret and voluptuous enjoyments; which is laid out in a great number of close walks, colonades and passages, turned with many intricate windings, so as to confuse and lead the passenger astray; being sometimes divided by thickets of underwood, intermixed with straggling large trees; and at other times by higher plantations, or by clumps of rose-trees, and other lofty flowering shrubs. The whole is a wilderness of sweets, adorned with all sorts of fragrant and gaudy productions: gold and silver pheasants, pea-fowls, partridges, bantam hens, quails, and game of every kind, swarm in the woods; doves, nightingales, and a thousand melodious birds, perch upon the branches; deer, ante-

lopes, spotted buffaloes, sheep, and Tartarean horses, frisk upon the plains : every walk leads to some delightful object ; to groves of orange and myrtle ; to rivulets, whose banks are clad with roses, woodbine and jessamine ; to murmuring fountains, with statues of sleeping nymphs, and water-gods ; to cabinets of verdure, with beds of aromatic herbs and flowers ; to grottos cut in rocks, adorned with incrustations of coral shells, ores, gems and cristallisations, refreshed with rills of sweet-scented water, and cooled by fragrant, artificial breezes.

Amongst the thickets which divide the walks, are many secret recesses ; in each of which there is an elegant pavilion, consisting of one state apartment, with out-houses, and proper conveniences for eunuchs and women servants. These are inhabited, during the summer, by their fairest and most accomplished concubines ; each of them, with her attendants, occupying a separate pavilion.

The principal apartment of these buildings, consists of one or more large saloons, two cabinet or dressing-rooms, a library, a couple of bed-chambers and waiting-rooms, a bath, and several private closets ; all which are magnificently furnished, and provided with entertaining books, amorous paintings, musical instruments, implements for gaming, writing, drawing, painting and embroidering ; with beds, couches, and chairs, of various constructions, for the uses of sitting and lying in different postures.

The saloons generally open to little enclosed courts, set round with beautiful flower-pots, of different forms, made of porcelain, marble or copper, filled with the rarest flowers of the season : at the end of the court there is generally an aviary ;

an artificial rock with a fountain and basin for gold fish; a cascade; an arbor of bamboo or vine interwoven with flowering shrubs; or some other elegant contrivance, of the like nature.

Besides these separate habitations, in which the ladies are privately visited by the patron, as often as he is disposed to see them, there are, in other larger recesses of the thickets, more splendid and spacious buildings, where the women all meet at certain hours of the day, either to eat at the publick tables, to drink their tea, to converse, bathe, swim, work, romp, or to play at the mora, and other games known in China; or else to divert the patron with music, singing, lascivious posture-dancing, and acting plays or pantomines; at all which they generally are very expert.

Some of these structures are entirely open; the roof being supported on columns of rose-wood, or cedar, with bases of Corean jasper; or upon wooden pillars, made in imitation of bamboo, and plantane-trees, surrounded with garlands of fruit and flowers, artfully carved, being painted and varnished in proper colours. Others are enclosed; and consist sometimes only of one spacious hall, and sometimes of many different sized rooms, of various forms; as triangles, squares, hexagons, octagons, circles, ovals, and irregular whimsical shapes; all of them elegantly finished with incrustations of marble, inlaid precious woods, ivory, silver, gold, and mother of pearl; with a profusion of antient porcelain, mirrors, carving, gilding, painting and lacquering of all colours.

The doors of entrance to these apartments, are circular and polygonal, as well as rectangular:

and the windows by which they are lighted, are made in the shapes of fans, birds, animals, fishes, insects, leaves and flowers; being filled with painted glass, or different coloured gauze, to tinge the light, and give a glow to the objects in the apartment.

All these buildings are furnished at a very great expence, not only with the necessary moveables, but with pictures, sculptures, embroideries, trinkets, and pieces of clock-work of great value, being some of them very large, composed of many ingenious movements, and enriched with ornaments of gold, intermixed with pearls, diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and other gems.

Besides the different structures already mentioned, they have some made in the form of Persian tents; others built of roots and pollards, put together with great taste; and others, called *Miau Ting*, or *Halls of the Moon*, of a prodigious size; composed each of one single vaulted room, made in the shape of a hemisphere; the concave of which is artfully painted, in imitation of a nocturnal sky, and pierced with an infinite number of little windows, made to represent the moon and stars, being filled with tinged glass, that admits the light in the quantities necessary to spread over the whole interior fabric the pleasing gloom of a fine summer's night.

The pavements of these rooms are sometimes laid out in parterres of flowers; amongst which are placed many rural seats, made of fine formed branches, varnished red to represent coral: but oftenest their bottom is full of a clear running water, which falls in rills from the sides of a rock in the

center; many little islands float upon its surface, and move around as the current directs; some of them covered with tables for the banquet; others with seats for musicians; and others with arbors, containing beds of repose, with sofas, seats, and other furniture, for various uses.

To these halls of the moon the Chinese princes retire, with their favourite women, whenever the heat and intense light of the summer's day becomes disagreeable to them; and here they feast, and give a loose to every sort of voluptuous pleasure.

No nation ever equalled the Chinese in the splendor and number of their garden structures. We are told by Father Attiret, that in one of the imperial gardens near Pekin, called Yven Ming Yven, there are, besides the palace, which is of itself a city, four hundred pavilions, all so different in their architecture, that each seems the production of a different country. He mentions one of them, that cost upwards of two hundred thousand pounds, exclusive of the furniture; another, consisting of a hundred rooms: and says, that most of them are sufficiently capacious to lodge the greatest European lord, and his whole retinue. There is likewise, in the same garden, a fortified town, with its port, streets, public squares, temples, markets, shops, and tribunals of justice: in short, with every thing that is at Pekin; only upon a smaller scale.

In this town the emperors of China, who are too much the slaves of their greatness to appear in publick, and their women, who are excluded from it by custom, are frequently diverted with the hurry and bustle of the capital; which is there repre-

sent, several times in the year, by the eunuchs of the palace: some of them personating merchants, others artists, artificers, officers, soldiers, shopkeepers, porters, and even thieves and pickpockets. On the appointed day, each puts on the habit of his profession: the ships arrive at the port, the shops are opened, and the goods are offered to sale; tea-houses, taverns, and inns, are ready for the reception of company; fruits, and all sorts of refreshments, are cried about the streets: the shopkeepers teize the passengers to purchase their merchandize; and every liberty is permitted: there is no distinction of persons; even the emperor is confounded in the crowd: quarrels happen—battles ensue—the watch seizes upon the combatants—they are conveyed before the judge, he examines the dispute and condemns the culprit, who is sometimes very severely bastinadoed, to divert his imperial majesty, and the ladies of his train.

Neither are sharpers forgot in these festivals; that noble profession is generally allotted to a good number of the most dextrous eunuchs, who, like the Spartan youths of old, are punished or applauded, according to the merit of their exploits.

The plantations of their autumnal scenes consist of many sorts of oak, beech, and other deciduous trees that are retentive of the leaf, and afford in their decline a rich variegated colouring; with which they blend some ever-greens, some fruit-trees, and the few shrubs and flowers which blossom late in the year; placing amongst them decayed trees, pollards, and dead stumps, of picturesque forms, overspread with moss and ivy.

The buildings with which these scenes are decorated, are generally such as indicate decay, being intended as mementos to the passenger. Some are hermitages and alms-houses, where the faithful old servants of the family spend the remains of life in peace, amidst the tombs of their predecessors, who lie buried around them: others are ruins of castles, palaces, temples, and deserted religious houses; or half-buried triumphal arches and mausoleums, with mutilated inscriptions, that once commemorated the heroes of antient times; or they are sepulchres of their ancestors, catacombs and cemeteries for their favourite domestic animals; or whatever else may serve to indicate the debility, the disappointments, and the dissolution of humanity; which, by co-operating with the dreary aspect of autumnal nature, and the inclement temperature of the air, fill the mind with melancholy, and incline it to serious reflections.

Such is the common scenery of the Chinese Gardens, where the ground has no striking tendency to any particular character. But where it is more strongly marked, their artists never fail to improve upon its singularities; their aim is to excite a great variety of passions in the mind of the spectator; and the fertility of their imaginations, always upon the stretch in search of novelty, furnishes them with a thousand artifices to accomplish that aim.

The scenes which I have hitherto described, are chiefly of the pleasing kind: but the Chinese Gardeners have many sorts, which they employ as circumstances vary; all which they range in three separate classes; and distinguish them by the ap-

pellations of the pleasing, the terrible, and the surprizing.

The first of these are composed of the gayest and most perfect productions of the vegetable world; intermixed with rivers, lakes, cascades, fountains, and water-works of all sorts: being combined and disposed in all the picturesque forms that art or nature can suggest. Buildings, sculptures, and paintings are added, to give splendor and variety to these compositions; and the rarest productions of the animal creation are collected, to enliven them: nothing is forgot that can either exhilarate the mind, gratify the senses, or give a spur to the imagination.

Their scenes of terror are composed of gloomy woods, deep vallies inaccessible to the sun, impending barren rocks, dark caverns, and impetuous cataracts rushing down the mountains from all parts. The trees are ill formed, forced out of their natural directions, and seemingly torn to pieces by the violence of tempests: some are thrown down, and intercept the course of the torrents; others look as if blasted and shattered by the power of lightening: the buildings are in ruins; or half consumed by fire, or swept away by the fury of the waters: nothing remaining entire but a few miserable huts dispersed in the mountains, which serve at once to indicate the existence and wretchedness of the inhabitants. Bats, owls, vultures, and every bird of prey flutter in the groves; wolves, tigers and jackalls howl in the forests; half-starved animals wander upon the plains; gibbets, crosses, wheels, and the whole apparatus of torture, are seen from the roads; and in the most dismal recesses of the woods, where the ways are rugged and overgrown with weeds, and where every object

bears the marks of depopulation, are temples dedicated to the king of vengeance, deep caverns in the rocks, and descents to subterraneous habitations, overgrown with brushwood and brambles; near which are placed pillars of stone, with pathetic descriptions of tragical events, and many horrid acts of cruelty, perpetrated there by outlaws and robbers of former times: and to add both to the horror and sublimity of these scenes, they sometimes conceal in cavities, on the summits of the highest mountains, founderies, lime-kilns, and glass-works; which send forth large volumes of flame, and continued columns of thick smoke, that give to these mountains the appearance of volcanoes.

Their surprizing, or supernatural scenes, are of the romantic kind, and abound in the marvellous; being calculated to excite in the minds of the spectators, quick successions of opposite and violent sensations. Sometimes the passenger is hurried by steep descending paths to subterraneous vaults, divided into apartments, where lamps, which yield a faint glimmering light, discover the pale images of antient kings and heroes, reclining on beds of state; their heads are crowned with garlands of stars, and in their hands are tablets of moral sentences: flutes, and soft harmonious organs, impelled by subterraneous waters, interrupt, at stated intervals, the silence of the place, and fill the air with solemn melody.

Sometimes the traveller, after having wandered in the dusk of the forest, finds himself on the edge of precipices, in the glare of day-light, with tataracts falling from the mountains around, and torrents raging in the depths beneath him; or at the foot of impending rocks, in gloomy vallies,

overhung with woods, on the banks of dull moving rivers, whose shores are covered with sepulchral monuments, under the shade of willows, laurels, and other plants, sacred to Manchew, the genius of sorrow.

His way now lies through dark passages cut in the rocks, on the side of which are recesses, filled with colossal figures of dragons, infernal fiends, and other horrid forms, which hold in their monstrous talons, mysterious, cabalistical sentences, inscribed on tables of brass; with preparations that yield a constant flame; serving at once to guide and to astonish the passenger: from time to time he is surprized with repeated shocks of electrical impulse, with showers of artificial rain, or sudden violent gusts of wind, and instantaneous explosions of fire; the earth trembles under him, by the power of confined air; and his ears are successively struck with many different sounds, produced by the same means; some resembling the cries of men in torment; others the roaring of bulls, and howl of ferocious animals, with the yell of hounds, and the voices of hunters; others are like the mixed croaking of ravenous birds; and others imitate thunder, the raging of the sea, the explosion of cannon, the sound of trumpets, and all the noise of war.

His road then lies through lofty woods, where serpents and lizards of many beautiful sorts crawl upon the ground, and where innumerable monkees, cats and parrots, clamber upon the trees, and intimidate him as he passes; or through flowery thickets, where he is delighted with the singing of birds, the harmony of flutes, and all kinds of soft instrumental music: sometimes, in this romantic excursion, the passenger finds himself in extensive recesses,

furrounded with arbors of jessamine, vine and roses, where beauteous Tartarean damsels, in loose transparent robes, that flutter in the air, present him with rich wines, mangostans, ananas, and fruits of Quangsi; crown him with garlands of flowers, and invite him to taste the sweets of retirement, on Persian carpets, and beds of camusathkin down.

These enchanted scenes always abound with water-works, so contrived as to produce many surprising effects; and many splendid pieces of scenery. Air is likewise employed with great success, on different occasions; not only for the purposes above-mentioned, but likewise to form artificial and complicated echoes: some repeating the motion of the feet; some the rustling of garments; and others the human voice, in many different tones: all which are calculated to embarrass, to surprize, or to terrify the passenger in his progress.

All sorts of optical deceptions are also made use of; such as paintings on prepared surfaces, contrived to vary the representations as often as the spectator changes place: exhibiting, in one view, groupes of men; in another, combats of animals; in a third, rocks, cascades, trees and mountains; in a fourth, temples and colonades; and a variety of other pleasing subjects. They likewise contrive pavements and incrustations for the walls of their apartments, of Mosaic work, composed of many pieces of marble, seemingly thrown together without order or design; which, when seen from certain points of view, unite in forming lively and exact representations of men, animals, buildings and landscapes: and they frequently introduce pieces of architecture, and even whole prospects in perspective; which are formed by introducing temples,

bridges, vessels, and other fixed objects, lessened as they are more distant from the points of view, by giving greyish tints to the distant parts of the composition; and by planting there trees of a fainter colour, and smaller growth, than those that appear in the fore ground: thus rendering considerable in appearance, what in reality is trifling.

The Chinese Artists introduce into these enchanted scenes, all kinds of sensitive, and other extraordinary trees, plants and flowers. They keep in them a surprizing variety of monstrous birds, reptiles, and animals, which they import from distant countries, or obtain by crossing the breeds. These are tamed by art; and guarded by enormous dogs of Tibet, and African giants, in the habits of magicians.

They likewise have amongst the plantations, cabinets, in which are collected all the extraordinary productions of the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms; as well as paintings, sculptures, medals, antiquities, and ingenious inventions of the mechanic arts: which are a fresh source of entertainment, when the weather is bad, or when the heat is too intense to admit of being in the open air.

The communications to the different scenes and other parts of the Chinese Gardens, are by walks, roads, bridle-ways, navigable rivers, lakes, and canals; in all which their artists introduce as much variety as possible; not only in the forms and dimensions, but also in their decoration: avoiding, nevertheless, all the absurdities with which our ancient European style of Gardening abounds.

“ I am not ignorant,” said one of their artists,
 “ that your European planters, thinking Nature
 “ scanty in her arrangements, or being perhaps dis-
 “ gusted with the familiarity and commonness of
 “ natural objects, introduce artificial forms into
 “ their plantations, and cut their trees in the shapes
 “ of pyramids, flower-pots, men, fishes, and brute
 “ animals; and I have heard of colonades, and
 “ whole palaces, formed by plants, cut as precisely
 “ as if they had been built of stone. But this is
 “ purchasing variety at the expence of reason: such
 “ extravagancies ought never to be tolerated, ex-
 “ cepting in enchanted scenes: and there but very
 “ seldom; for they must be as destitute of beauty,
 “ as they are of propriety; and if the planter be a
 “ traveller, and a man of observation, he can want
 “ no such helps to variety, as he will recollect a
 “ thousand beautiful effects along the common roads
 “ of the countries through which he has passed,
 “ that may be introduced with much better suc-
 “ cess.”

Their roads, walks and avenues, are either di-
 rected in a single straight line, twisted in a crooked
 one, or carried zig-zag, by several straight lines,
 altering their course at certain points. They ob-
 serve that there are few objects more strikingly great
 than a spacious road, planted on each side with lofty
 trees, and stretching in a direct line, beyond the
 reach of the eye; and that there are few things
 more variously entertaining, than a winding one,
 which opening gradually to the sight, discovers, at
 every step, a new arrangement; and although, in
 itself, it has not the power of raising violent emo-
 tions, yet, by bringing the passenger suddenly and
 unexpectedly to great or uncommon things, it oc-
 casions strong impressions of surprize and astonish-

ment, which are more forcibly felt, as being more opposite to the tranquil pleasure enjoyed in the confined parts of the road : and, in small compositions, they find crooked directions exceedingly useful to the planter, who, by winding his walks, may give an idea of great extent, notwithstanding the narrowness of his limits.

They say that roads which are composed of repeated straight lines, altering their directions at certain points, have all the advantages both of crooked and straight ones, with other properties, peculiar to themselves. The variety and new arrangement of objects, say they, which present themselves at every change of direction, occupy the mind agreeably : their abrupt appearance occasions surprize ; which, when the extent is vast, and the repetitions frequent, swells into astonishment and admiration : the incertitude of the mind where these repetitions will end, and its anxiety as the spectator approaches towards the periods, are likewise very strong impressions, preventing that state of languor into which the mind naturally sinks by dwelling long on the same objects.

The straight directions, particularly the zig-zag, are, on account of these effects, well adapted to avenues or high roads, which lead to towns, palaces, bridges, or triumphal arches ; to castles or prisons, for the reception of criminals ; to mausoleums ; and all other works of which the intent is to inspire horror, veneration or astonishment. To humbler objects, the waving line is a more proper approach ; the smallness of their parts rendering them unfit for a distant inspection : and as they are trifling in themselves, they please most when their appearance is unexpected : and from the very point

whence all their little beauties are seen in the highest lustre.

In disposing the walks of their Gardens, the Chinese artists are very attentive to lead them successively to all the principal buildings, fine prospects, and other interesting parts of the composition ; that the passenger may be conducted insensibly, as it were by accident, and without turning back, or seeming to go out of the way, to every object deserving notice.

Both their straight and winding walks are, in some places, kept at a considerable distance from each other, and separated by close planted thickets, to hide all exterior objects ; as well to keep the passenger in suspense with regard to the extent, as to excite those gloomy sensations which naturally steal upon the mind, in wandering through the intricacies of a solitary forest. In other places the walks approach each other ; and the thickets growing gradually less deep, and more thinly planted, the ear is struck with the voices of those who are in the adjacent walks, and the eye amused with a confused sight of their persons, between the stems and foliage of the trees. Insensibly again the plantations spread and darken, the objects disappear, and the voices die in confused murmurs ; when unexpectedly the walks are turned into the same open spaces, and the different companies are agreeably surprized to meet where they may view each other, and satisfy their curiosity without impediment.

The Chinese Gardeners very seldom finish any of their walks *en cul de sac* ; carefully avoiding all unpleasant disappointments : but if at any time the nature of the situation obliges them to it, they al-

ways terminate at some interesting object ; which lessens the disappointment, and takes off the idea of a childish conceit.

Neither do they ever carry a walk round the extremities of a piece of ground, and leave the middle entirely open, as it is too often done amongst us : for though it might render the first glance striking and noble, they think the pleasure would be of short duration ; and that the spectator would be but moderately entertained, by walking several miles, with the same objects continually obtruding upon his sight. If the ground they have to work upon be small, and that they choose to exhibit a grand scene, either from the principal habitation, or any other capital point, they do indeed leave a great part of the space open ; but still care is taken to have a good depth of thicket, which frequently breaks considerably in upon the open space, and hides many parts of it from the spectator's eye.

These projections produce variety, by altering the apparent figure of the open space from every point of view ; and by constantly hiding parts of it, they create a mystery which excites the traveller's curiosity : they likewise occasion, in many places, a great depth in the thicket, to make recesses for buildings, seats, and other objects, as well as for bold windings of the principal walks, and for several smaller paths to branch off from the principal ones ; all which take off the idea of a boundary, and afford amusement to the passenger in his course : and as it is not easy to pursue all the turns of the different lateral paths, there is still something left to desire, and a field for the imagination to work upon.

In their crooked walks, they carefully avoid all sudden or unnatural windings, particularly the regular serpentine curves, of which our English Gardeners are so fond; observing, that these eternal, uniform, undulating lines, are, of all things, the most unnatural, the most affected, and most tiresome to pursue. Having nature in view, they seldom turn their walks, without some apparent excuse; either to avoid impediments, naturally existing, or raised by art, to improve the scenery. A mountain, a precipice, a deep valley, a marsh, a piece of rugged ground, a building, or some old venerable plant, afford a striking reason for turning aside; and if a river, the sea, a wide extended lake, or a terras commanding rich prospects, present themselves, they hold it judicious to follow them in all their windings; so to protract the enjoyments which these noble objects procure: but on a plain, either open, or formed into groves and thickets, where no impediments oblige, nor no curiosity invites to follow a winding path, they think it absurd, saying, that the road must either have been made by art, or be worn by the constant passage of travellers; in either of which cases, it cannot be supposed that men would go by a crooked line, where they could arrive by a straight one. In general, they are very sparing of their twists, which are always easy, and so managed that never more than one curve is perceptible at the same time.

They likewise take care to avoid an exact parallelism in these walks, both with regard to the trees which border them, and the ground of which they are composed. The usual width given to the walk, is from eight to twenty, or even thirty feet, according to the extent of the plantation; but the trees, on each side, are, in many places, more distant;

large spaces being left open, and covered with grass and wild flowers, or with fern, broom, briars, and underwood.

The ground of the walk is either of turf or gravel; neither of them finishing exactly at its edges, but running some way into the thickets, groves or shrubberies, on each side; in order to imitate nature more closely, and to take off that disagreeable formality and stiffness, which a contrary practice occasions in our European plantations.

In their straight roads or walks, when the extent is vast, the Chinese artists observe an exact order and symmetry, saying, that in stupendous works, the appearance of art is by no means disgusting; that it conveys to posterity instances of the grandeur of their ancestors; and gives birth to many sublime and pleasing reflections. The imperial roads are astonishing works of this nature; they are composed of triple avenues, adorned with four rows of enormous trees; generally Indian chestnuts, spruce firs, mountain cedars, and others of formal shapes; or oaks, elms, tulips, and others of the largest growth, planted at proper regular distances; and extending in straight lines, and almost on a perfect level, two, three, even four hundred miles. The center avenues are from one hundred and fifty, to two hundred feet wide; and the lateral ones, are generally from forty to fifty feet; the spreading branches of the trees forming over them a natural umbrella, under which the travellers pass, at all times of the day, unmolested by the sun.

In some places these roads are carried, by lofty vaulted passages, through the rocks and mountains; in others, upon causeways and bridges, over lakes,

torrents, and arms of the sea; and in others, they are supported, between the precipices, upon chains of iron, or upon pillars, and many tire of arcades, over villages, pagodas, and cities: in short, no difficulty has been attended to in their construction; but every obstacle has been conquered with amazing industry, and at an almost incredible expence.

There are, in different parts of China, many works of the kinds just mentioned; but amongst the most considerable, are counted the Passage of King-tong, the Bridges of Fo-cheu and Lo-yang, and the Cientao, in the province of Xenfi.

The first of these is a communication between two precipices, composed of twenty enormous chains of iron, each two hundred feet in length, which are covered with planks and earth, to form the road.

The second is a bridge between Fo-cheu and the suburb Nan-ti, consisting of one hundred arches, of a sufficient size for the passage of ships under full sail: it is built of large blocks of hewn stone, and enclosed with a magnificent marble balustrade, the pedestals of which support two hundred colossal lions, artfully cut in the same material.

The bridge of Lo-yang is in the province of Fo-kien, and is the largest and most surprizing work of the sort that yet has been heard of. It is composed of three hundred piers of black marble, joined to each other by vast blocks of the same material, forming the road, which is enclosed with a marble balustrade, whose pedestals are adorned with lions, and other works of sculpture. The whole length of the bridge is sixteen thousand two hundred feet, or upwards of three miles; its width is forty-two

feet ; and the blocks of which it is composed are each fifty-four feet long, and six feet diameter.

The Cientao, or Way of Pillars, is a communication between many precipices, built to shorten the road to Pekin. It is near four miles long, of a considerable width, and supported over the valleys upon arches and stone piers of a terrifying height.

In the mountains, on each side of these imperial roads, are erected a great number of buildings, adorned with colossal statues, and other works of sculpture, which afford constant entertainment to the passengers. These are the monuments of their wise men, their saints, and their warriors, erected at the expence of the state, and furnished with nervous inscriptions, in the Chinese language, giving an account of the lives and actions of those they commemorate : some of these buildings are distributed into many spacious courts and stately apartments, being little inferior to palaces, either in magnificence or extent.

Instead of roads, the center avenues are sometimes formed into navigable canals, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet wide, being sufficiently deep to admit galleys and other small vessels ; with horse-ways on each side of the canals, for the convenience of towing them, either against the wind or the stream. On these the emperor, and Chinese mandarines, are frequently conveyed, in large magnificent sampans or barges, divided into many splendid rooms ; being sometimes attended by a considerable train of smaller vessels, of different constructions, adorned with dragons, streamers, lanterns of painted silk, and various

other ornaments, the whole composing a very brilliant and entertaining show.

All the imperial forests, besides the high roads which pass through them, have many spacious avenues cut in the woods, spreading from different centers, like rays of stars, and terminating at idol temples, towers, castles, and all the interesting objects of the circumjacent country. The centers from which these avenues part, are of a circular or octagonal figure, with eight avenues; or of a semi-circular form, with only three branching from them. Their area is generally very considerable; and its middle is adorned with a triumphal arch, a pagoda, a magnificent fountain, or some other considerable monument.

Where the extent is vast, each single avenue has besides, in its course, one or more open spaces, from which a number of smaller avenues again branch out, and terminate at many buildings, erected in the woods, for various purposes; all which, without any confusion, add to the variety and intricacy of these compositions; giving them an appearance of immensity not to be conceived, but by such as have seen them: and wherever a deep valley, a large river, or an arm of the sea, interrupt and break off the course of the avenues, the plantations are nevertheless continued on the opposite shore, in order to make them appear more considerable.

In straight roads, of smaller dimensions, the Chinese very artfully imitate the irregular workings of nature; for although the general direction be a straight line, yet they easily avoid all appearance of stiffness or formality, by planting some of the trees out of the common line; by inclining

some of them out of an upright; or by employing different species of plants, and by placing them at irregular distances, with their stems sometimes bare, and at other times covered with honey-suckles and sweet-bryar, or surrounded with underwood. They likewise cut and dispose the branches of the trees in various manners; some being suffered to spread, to cover and shade the walks; whilst others are shortened, to admit the sun. The ground too is composed of rises and falls; and the banks on each side of the walk are, in some places, of a considerable height, forming hollow ways, which they often cover at the top with bushes and trunks of fallen trees: frequently too the course of the walk is interrupted by a large oak, or elm, or tulipifera, placed in the middle; or by a screen of trees running quite across; which, when the part on one side of the screen is opened and illuminated by the sun, and the part on the other side, close and shaded, produces a pleasing contrast.

I have often seen, in China, *berceaux* and arbors, not of lattice-work, as in France, but of bamboo, hazel, and elm, whose branches being interwoven at the top, formed an arch not at all displeasing to the eye, and exceedingly useful, during the heats of summer: and to render these cool retreats more agreeable, jessamine, scarlet beans, sweet-scented pease, granadillas of several sorts, nasturtiums, the convulvus major, and many other sorts of climbers, were planted round the outside, which, forcing their way through, enriched the sides and arches of the walks in a very beautiful manner.

I have likewise seen, in Chinese plantations, walks bordered with the cut yew and elm hedges, so common in most countries of Europe, which the

Chinese artists sometimes admit of, for variety's sake; but they never have the stiff appearance of our European ones: the shears are used sparingly; towards the top the branches are suffered to spread unmolested; and even in the cut parts of them are seen large masses of other plants forcing their way through; such as the sycamore, the fig, the vine, and others, whose foliage and verdure are most opposite to those of the hedge.

The dimensions both of their straight roads and walks, vary according to the purposes they are designed for; and, in some degree too, according to their length. Roads or avenues to considerable objects, are, as has been observed, generally composed of three parallel walks: that in the middle being from thirty to one hundred and fifty, or even two hundred feet wide; those on the sides, from fifteen to forty. In their Gardens, the principal straight walks are never narrower than twenty feet; and seldom broader than forty-five or fifty: and the smallest straight walks are at least twelve feet wide. Thirty to thirty-six feet is called a sufficient width for a length of two hundred yards; forty to fifty for one of four hundred; sixty for one of six hundred; and seventy for a length of eight hundred yards: and when the extent is more than this last dimension, they do not tie themselves up to any proportion, but encrease their width as much as they conveniently can; never, however, exceeding one hundred and fifty, to two hundred feet: which they think the utmost width that can be given, without rendering the avenue disproportionate to the trees that border it.

In the construction of roads and walks, the Chinese Gardeners are very expert, and very cir-

cumspect: they never situate them at the foot of mountains or rising grounds, without contriving drains to receive the waters descending from the heights, which are afterwards discharged by arched gulleys under the roads, into the plains below; forming, in the rainy season, a great number of little cascades, that increase the beauty of the scenery. The roads which are designed for carriages, they make as level as possible; they give them a solid bottom, and shape them so as to throw off the rain-waters expeditiously: they use, as much as possible, the nearest materials, to save expence; and are very judicious in employing different soils to form mixtures, which never become either hard or slippery; never loose in dry weather, nor deep in wet; not easily ground into powder; nor ever forming a rough flinty surface, difficult and painful for horses to move upon.

Their walks are either of grass, of gravel, or chippings of stone, covered with a small quantity of coarse river-sand. The first sort, which are seldom used but in private Gardens, they being too liable to be spoiled in publick walks, are made of the finest and cleanest turf that can be found on downs and commons; and they are kept in order, by frequent mowing, and rowling with large iron rowlers. The second sort are made of binding gravel, laid about six inches deep, upon the natural ground: if it be dry, or if swampy, upon brick rubbish, flint stones, or any other hard materials, easiest to be had: and these are also kept firm, and in great beauty, by frequent rowling. Those of stone are composed of gallets, laid about a foot thick, rammed to a firm consistence, and a regular surface; upon which is laid a sufficient quantity of river-sand, to fill up all the interstices: which

done, the whole is moistened, and well rammed again.

Both in their roads and walks, they are very careful to contrive sink-stones, with proper drains and cess-pools for carrying off the waters, after violent rains: and to those that are upon descents, they never give more fall at the most than half an inch to every foot, to prevent their being damaged by the current of the waters.

As China, even in the northern provinces, is exceedingly hot during summer, much water is employed in their Gardens. In the small ones, where the situation admits, they frequently lay the greatest part of the ground under water, leaving only some islands and rocks; and in their large compositions, every valley has its brook or rivulet, winding round the feet of the hills, and discharging themselves into larger rivers and lakes. Their artists assert, that no Garden, particularly if it be extensive, can be perfect, without that element, distributed in many shapes; saying, that it is refreshing and grateful to the sense, in the seasons when rural scenes are most frequented; that it is a principal source of variety, from the diversity of forms and changes of which it is susceptible; and from the different manners in which it may be combined with other objects; that its impressions are numerous, and uncommonly forcible; and that, by various modifications, it enables the artist to strengthen the character of every composition; to encrease the tranquillity of the quiet scene; to give gloom to the melancholy, gaiety to the pleasing, sublimity to the great, and horror to the terrible.

They observe, that the different aquatic sports of rowing, sailing, swimming, fishing, hunting and combating, are an inexhaustible fund of amusement; that the birds and fishes, inhabitants of the water, are highly entertaining, especially to naturalists; and that the boats and vessels which appear upon its bosom, sometimes furiously impelled by tempests, at others gently gliding over the smooth surface, form, by their combinations, a thousand momentary varied pictures, that animate and embellish every prospect. They compare a clear lake, in a calm sunny day, to a rich piece of painting, upon which the circumambient objects are represented in the highest perfection; and say, it is like an aperture in the world, through which you see another world, another sun, and other skies.

They also say, that the beauty of vegetable nature depends, in a great degree, upon an abundant supply of water; which, at the same time that it produces variety and contrast in the scenery, enriches the verdure of the lawns, and gives health and vigor to the plantations.

Their lakes are made as large as the ground will admit; some several miles in circumference; and they are so shaped, that from no single point of view all their terminations can be seen; so that the spectator is always kept in ignorance of their extent. They intersperse in them many islands; which serve to give intricacy to the form, to conceal the bounds, and to enrich the scenery. Some of these are very small, sufficient only to contain one or two weeping willows, birch, larch, laburnum, or some other pendant plants, whose branches hang over the water: but others are large, highly cultivated, and enriched with lawns, shrubberies,

thickets, and buildings: or they are rugged, mountainous, and surrounded with rocks and shoals; being covered with fern, high grass, and some straggling large trees, planted in the vallies: amongst which are often seen stalking along the elephant, the rhinoceros, the dromedary, the ostrich, and the giant baboon.

There are other islands, raised to a considerable height, by a succession of terrasses, communicating with each other by various flights of magnificent steps. At the angles of all these terrasses, as well as upon the sides of the steps, are placed many brazen tripods, that smoke with incense; and upon the uppermost platform is generally erected a lofty tower for astronomical observations; an elegant temple, filled with idols; the colossal statue of a god, or some other considerable work; serving, at the same time, as an ornament to the Garden, and as an object to the whole country.

They also introduce in their lakes large artificial rocks, built of a particular fine coloured stone, found on the sea-coasts of China, and designed with much taste. These are pierced with many openings, through which you discover distant prospects; and have in them caverns for the reception of crocodiles, enormous water-serpents, and other monsters; cages for rare aquatic birds; and grottos, with many shining apartments, adorned with marine productions, and gems of various sorts. They plant upon them all kinds of grass, creepers and shrubs which thrive on rocks, such as moss, ground-ivy, fern, stone-crop, common house-leek, and various other sorts of the sedum, crane's bill, dwarf box, rock roses and broom; with some trees rooted into the crevices: and they

place on their summits, hermitages and idol temples, to which you ascend by many rugged, winding steps, cut in the rock.

On the borders of their lakes are seen extensive galleries, and many detached buildings, of different forms and dimensions, surrounded with plantations, sea-ports with fleets of vessels lying before them, forts with flags flying, and batteries of cannon; also, thickets of flowering shrubs, meadows covered with cattle, corn lands, cotton and sugar plantations, orchards of various fruit-trees, and rice grounds, which project into the lakes; leaving, in the midst of them, passages for boats: and, in some places, the borders consist of lofty woods, with creeks and rivers for the admission of vessels, whose banks are covered with high grass, reeds, and wild spreading trees, forming close gloomy arbors, under which the vessels pass. From these arbors are cut many vistas through the woods, to distant prospects of towns, bridges, temples, and various other objects, which successively strike the eye, and fill the mind with expectation; when suddenly a farther progress is rendered impracticable, by rocks, strong branches, and whole trees lying cross the channel; between which the river is seen still to continue, with many islands; whereon, and also in the water, appear the remains of antient structures, monumental inscriptions, and fragments of sculpture: which serve to give an edge to curiosity, and to render the disappointment more affecting.

Sometimes too, instead of being intercepted in your passage, the vessel, together with the whole river, are, by the impetuosity and particular direction of the current, hurried into dark caverns, overhung with woods; whence, after having been

furiously impelled for some time, you are again discharged into day-light, upon lakes encompassed with high hanging woods, rich prospects on mountains, and stately temples, dedicated to Tien-ho, and the celestial spirits.

Upon their lakes, the Chinese frequently exhibit sea-fights, processions, and ship-races; also fire-works and illuminations: in the two last of which they are more splendid, and more expert than the Europeans. On some occasions too, not only the lakes and rivers, but all the pavilions, and every part of their Gardens, are illuminated by an incredible number of beautiful lanterns, of a thousand different shapes, intermixed with lampions, torches, fire-pots, and sky-rockets; than which a more magnificent sight cannot be seen. Even the Girandola, and illumination of St. Peter's of the Vatican, tho' far the most splendid exhibitions of that sort in Europe, are trifles, when compared to these of China.

Their rivers are seldom straight, but winding, and broken into many irregular points: sometimes they are narrow, noisy and rapid; at other times deep, broad and slow. Their banks are variegated, in imitation of nature: being, in some places, bare and gravelly; in others, covered with woods quite to the water's edge; now flat and adorned with flowers and shrubs; then steep, rocky, and forming deep winding caverns, where pigeons of the wood, and water-fowl build their nests; or rising into many little hills, covered with hanging groves; between which are valleys and glades watered by rivulets, and adorned with pleasure-houses, cottages, and rustic temples; with flocks of sheep and goats feeding about them. The terminations of rivers the Chinese artists hide either in woods, or behind

hills and buildings; or they turn them under bridges, direct them into caverns, or lose them amongst rocks and shoals.

Both in their lakes and rivers are seen many kinds of reeds, and other aquatic plants and flowers; serving for ornament, as well as for covert to their birds. They erect upon them mills and other hydraulic machines, wherever the situation will permit. They introduce a great many splendid vessels, built after the manner of all nations; and keep in them all kinds of curious and beautiful water-fowl, collected from different countries.

Nor are they less various and magnificent in their bridges than in their other decorations. Some they build of wood, and compose them of rough planks, laid in a rustic manner upon large roots of trees: some are made of many trunks of trees, thrown rudely over the stream; and fenced with decayed branches, intertwined with the convulvulus, and climbers of different sorts: and some are composed of vast arches of carpentry, artfully and neatly framed together. They have also bridges of stone and marble, adorned with colonades, triumphal arches, towers, loggias, fishing pavilions, statues, bas-reliefs, brazen tripods, and porcelain vases. Some of them are upon a curve, or a serpentine plan; others branching out into various directions: some straight, and some at the conflux of rivers or canals, triangular, quadrilateral, and circular, as the situation requires; with pavilions at their angles, and basons of water in their centers, adorned with *Jets d' eau*, and fountains of many sorts.

Some of these are entire, and executed with the utmost neatness and taste ; others seem in ruins ; and others are left half finished, and surrounded with scaffolds, machines, and the whole apparatus of building.

It is natural for the reader to imagine, that all these bridges, with the pavilions, temples, palaces, and other structures, which have been occasionally described in the course of this work, and which are so abundantly scattered over the Chinese Gardens, should entirely divest them of a rural character, and give them rather the appearance of splendid cities, than scenes of cultivated vegetation. But such is the judgment with which the Chinese artists situate their structures, that they enrich and beautify particular prospects, without any detriment to the general aspect of the whole composition, in which Nature almost always appears predominant ; for though their Gardens are full of buildings, and other works of art, yet there are many points from which none of them appear : and more than two or three at a time are seldom discovered ; so artfully are they concealed in valleys, behind rocks and mountains, or amongst woods and thickets.

There are, however, for variety's sake, in most of the Chinese Gardens, particular places, consecrated to scenes of an extraneous nature ; from whence all, or the greatest part of the buildings are collected into one view, rising above each other in amphitheatrical order, spreading out to a considerable extent ; and, by their whimsical combinations, exhibiting the most magnificent confusion imaginable. Their artists knowing how powerfully contrast agitates the human mind, lose no opportunity of practising sudden transitions, or of displaying strong

oppositions, as well in the nature of the objects which enter into their compositions, as in their modifications. Thus they conduct you from limited prospects to extensive views; from places of horror to scenes of delight; from lakes and rivers to woods and lawns; and from the simplest arrangements of nature, to the most complicated productions of art. To dull and gloomy colours, they oppose such as are brilliant; and to light, they oppose darkness: rendering, by these means, their productions not only distinct in the parts, but also uncommonly striking in their total effect.

The cascades of the Chinese, which are always introduced, where the ground admits, and where the supply of water is sufficient, are sometimes regular, like those of Marli, Fieschi and Tivoli; but more frequently they are rude, like the falls of Trollhetta and the Nile. In one place a whole river is precipitated from the summit of the mountain, into the vallies beneath; where it foams and whirls amongst the rocks, till it falls down other precipices, and buries itself in the gloom of impenetrable forests. In another place the waters burst out with violence from many parts, spouting a great number of cascades, in different directions; which, through various impediments, at last unite, and form one great expanse of water. Sometimes the view of the cascade is in a great measure intercepted by the branches which hang over it; sometimes its passage is obstructed by trees, and heaps of enormous stones, that seem to have been brought down by the fury of the torrent: and frequently rough wooden bridges are thrown from one rock to another, over the steepest parts of the cataract; narrow winding paths are carried along the edges of the precipices; and

mills and huts are suspended over the waters; the seeming dangerous situation of which, adds to the horror of the scene.

As the Chinese are so very fond of water, their Gardeners endeavour to obtain it by art, wherever it is denied by Nature. For this purpose, they have many ingenious inventions to collect water; and many machines, of simple construction, which raise it to almost any level, at a trifling expence. They use the same method for overflowing vallies, that is practised in Europe; by raising heads of earth or masonry at their extremities; where the soil is too porous to hold water, they clay the bottom, in the same manner that we do to make it tight: and in order to prevent the inconveniences arising from stagnant waters, they always contrive a considerable discharge to procure motion, even where the supply is scanty; which is done by conveying the discharged water back, through subterraneous drains, into reservoirs; whence it is again raised into the lake or river, by means of pumps, and other machines, proper for that purpose. They always give a considerable depth to their waters, at least five or six feet, to prevent the rising of scum, and the floating of weeds upon the surface; and they are always provided with swans, and such other birds as feed on weeds, to keep them under.

In overflowing their grounds, and also in draining them, they take all possible care not to kill many of their old trees, either by over moistening their roots, or draining them too much; saying, that the loss of a fine old plant is irreparable; that it impairs the beauty of the adjacent plantations; and often likewise destroys the effect of the scenery, from many distant points of view: and in shaping

their grounds, they are, for the same reason, equally cautious with regard to the old plantations; carefully observing never to bury the stems, nor to expose the roots of any trees which they mean to preserve.

• In their plantations, the Chinese artists do not, as is the practice of some European Gardeners, plant indiscriminately every thing that comes in their way; nor do they ignorantly imagine that the whole perfection of plantations consists in the variety of the trees and shrubs of which they are composed: on the contrary, their practice is guided by many rules, founded on reason and long observation, from which they seldom or ever deviate.

“Many trees, shrubs and flowers,” sayeth Li-Tsong, a Chinese author of great antiquity, “thrive best in low moist situations; many on hills and mountains: some require a rich soil; but others will grow on clay, in sand, or even upon rocks; and in the water: to some a sunny exposition is necessary; but for others, the shade is preferable. There are plants which thrive best in exposed situations; but, in general, shelter is requisite. The skilful Gardener, to whom study and experience have taught these qualities, carefully attends to them in his operations; knowing that thereon depend the health and growth of his plants; and consequently the beauty of his plantations.”

In China, as in Europe, the usual times of planting are the autumn and the spring; some things answering best when planted in the first, and some in the last of these seasons. Their Gardeners avoid planting, whenever the grounds are so moist as to

endanger the rotting of the roots ; or when the frosts are so near as to pinch the plants, before they have recovered the shock of transplantation ; or when the earth and air are too dry to afford nurture to them ; or when the weather is so tempestuous as to shake or overturn them, whilst loose and unrooted in the ground.

They observe, that the perfection of trees for Ornamental Gardening, consists in their size ; in the beauty and variety of their forms ; in the colour and smoothness of their bark ; in the quantity, shape, and rich verdure of their foliage ; in its early appearance in the spring, and long duration in the autumn ; in the quickness of their growth ; in their hardiness to endure the extremities of heat, cold, drought and moisture ; in their making no litter, during the spring or summer, by the fall of the blossom ; and in the strength of their branches, to resist, unhurt, the violence of tempests.

They say, that the perfection of shrubs consists not only in most of the above-mentioned particulars, but also in the beauty, durability, or long succession of their blossom ; and in their fair appearance before the bloom, and after it is gone.

“ We are sensible,” say they, “ that no plant is
 “ possessed of all good qualities ; but choose such as
 “ have the fewest faults ; and avoid all the exotics,
 “ that vegetate with difficulty in our climate ; for
 “ though they may be rare, they cannot be beauti-
 “ ful, being always in a sickly state : have, if you
 “ please, hot-houses and cool-houses, for plants of
 “ every region, to satisfy the curiosity of botanists ;
 “ but they are mere infirmaries : the plants which
 “ they contain, are valetudinarians, divested of beauty

“and vigor; which only exist by the power of
“medicine, and by dint of good nursing.”

The excessive variety of which some European Gardeners are so fond in their plantations, the Chinese artists blame, observing, that a great diversity of colours, foliage, and direction of branches, must create confusion, and destroy all the masses upon which effect and grandeur depend: they observe too, that it is unnatural; for, as in Nature most plants sow their own seeds, whole forests are generally composed of the same sort of trees. They admit, however, of a moderate variety; but are by no means promiscuous in the choice of their plants; attending, with great care, to the colour, form, and foliage of each; and only mixing together such as harmonize and assemble agreeably.

They say that some trees are only proper for thickets; others only fit to be employed singly; and others equally adapted to both these situations. The mountain-cedar, the spruce and silver firs, and all others whose branches have an horizontal direction, they hold improper for thickets; because their branches indent into each other; and likewise cut disagreeably upon the plants which back them. They never mix these horizontal branched trees with the cypresses, the oriental arbor vitæ, or other upright ones; nor with the larix, the weeping willow, the birch, the laburnum, or others of a pendant nature; saying, that the intersection of their branches forms a very unpicturesque kind of net-work: neither do they employ together the catalpha and the acacia, the yew and the willow, the plane and the sumach, nor any of such heterogeneous sorts; but on the contrary, they assemble in their large woods, the oak, the elm, the beech, the tulip, the sycamore,

māple and plane, the Indian chesnut and western walnut, the arbeal, the lime, and all whose luxuriant foliages hide the direction of their branches; and growing in globular masses, assemble well together; forming, by the harmonious combination of their tints, one grand mass of rich verdure.

In their smaller plantations, they employ trees of a smaller growth, but of the same concordant sorts; bordering them with Persian lilacks, gelder-roses, feringas, coronillas or fennas of various sorts, flowering raspberries, yellow jessamine, hypericum or St. John's wort, the spiræa frutex, altheas, roses, and other flowering shrubs; intermixed with flowers and with the padus of various species, elder, mountain ash, acacia, double blossomed thorn, and many other sorts of flowering trees: and wherever the ground is bare, they cover it with white, blue, purple and variegated periwinkle, the convulvulus minor, dwarf stocks, violets, primroses, and different kinds of creeping flowers; and with strawberries, tutsen and ivy, which climbs up and covers the stems of the trees.

In their shrubberies they follow, as much as possible, the same rules; observing farther, in some of them to plant all such shrubs as flourish at one time; and in others, such as succeed each other: of which different methods the first is much the most brilliant; but its duration is short; and the appearance of the shrubbery is generally shabby, as soon as the bloom is off: they therefore seldom use it, but for scenes that are to be enjoyed at certain periods; preferring the last, on other occasions, as being of long duration, and less unpleasing after the flowers are gone.

The Chinese Gardeners do not scatter their flowers indiscriminately about their borders, as is usual in some parts of Europe, but dispose them with great circumspection; and, if I may be allowed the expression, paint their way very artfully along the skirts of the plantations: and in other places, where flowers are to be introduced. They reject all that are of a straggling growth, of harsh colours, and poor foliage; choosing only such as are of some duration, grow either large, or in clusters, are of beautiful forms, well leaved, and of tints that harmonize with the greens that surround them. They avoid all sudden transitions, both with regard to dimension and colour; rising gradually from the smallest flowers to holli-oaks, pœonies, sun-flowers, carnation-poppies, and others of the boldest growth; and varying their tints, by easy gradations, from white, straw colour, purple and incarnate, to the deepest blues, and most brilliant crimsons and scarlets. They frequently blend several roots together, whose leaves and flowers unite, and compose only one rich harmonious mass; such as the white and purple candiduff, larkspurs, and mallows of various colours, double poppies, loopins, primroses, pinks and carnations; with many others, whose forms and colours accord with each other: and the same method they use with flowering shrubs; blending white, red, and variegated roses together; purple and white lilacks; yellow and white jessamine; altheas of various sorts; and as many others, as they can with any propriety unite.—By these mixtures they encrease considerably the variety and beauty of their compositions.

In their large plantations, the flowers generally grow in the natural ground: but in their flower-gardens, and in all other parts that are highly kept,

they are in pots, buried in the ground; which, as fast as the bloom goes off, are removed, and others are brought in their places; so that there is a constant succession, for almost every month in the year; and the flowers are never seen, but in the height of their beauty.

Amongst the most interesting parts of the Chinese plantations, are their open groves; for as the women spend much of their time there, care is taken to situate them as pleasantly as possible, and to adorn them with all kinds of natural beauties.

The ground on which they are planted, is commonly uneven, yet not rugged; either on a plain, raised into many gentle swellings; on the easy declivity of a mountain, commanding rich prospects; or in vales, surrounded with woods, and watered with springs and rivulets.

Those which are in an open exposure, are generally bordered with flowery meadows, extensive corn-fields, or large lakes; the Chinese artists, observing, that the brilliancy and gaiety of these objects, form a pleasing contrast with the gloom of the grove: and when they are confined in thickets, or close planted woods, the plantation is so formed that, from every approach, some part of the grove is hid; which opening gradually to the eye of the passenger, satisfies his curiosity by degrees.

Some of these groves are composed of evergreens, chiefly of pyramidal forms, thinly planted over the surface, with flowering shrubs scattered amongst them: others are composed of lofty spreading trees, whose foliage affords a shady retreat during the heat of the day. The plants are never crowded

together : sufficient room being left between them for sitting or walking upon the grass ; which, by reason of its shady situation, retains a constant verdure ; and, in the spring, is adorned with a great variety of early flowers, such as violets, crocus's, polianthes's and primroses ; hyacinths, cowslips, snow-drops, daffodills and daisies. Some trees of the grove are suffered to branch out from the very bottom of the stem upwards : others, for the sake of variety, have their stems bare : but far the greater number are surrounded with rose-trees, sweet-bryar, honey-suckles, scarlet beans, nasturtiums, everlasting and sweet-scented peas, double-blossomed bryar, and other odoriferous shrubs, which beautify the barren parts of the plant, and perfume the air.

Sometimes too their open groves are composed of lemon, orange, citron, pomelose, and myrtle-trees ; which, as the climate varies, either grow in the earth, or in buried tubs and pots, which are removed to green houses during the winter. They also have groves of all sorts of fine formed fruit-trees ; which, when they blossom, and also when their fruit is ripe, are exceedingly beautiful : and to add to the luxuriance of these scenes, the Chinese artists plant vines of different coloured grapes near many of the trees, which climb up their stems, and afterwards hang in festoons from one tree to another.

In all their open groves are kept young broods of pheasants, partridges, pea-fowls, turkies, and all kinds of handsome domestic birds, who flock thither, at certain times of the day, to be fed : they also retain in them, by the same method, squirrels, small monkies, cokatoos, parrots, hog-deer, spotted capritos, lambs, Guinea pigs, and many other little beautiful birds and animals.

The trees which the Chinese Gardeners use in their open groves, and also for detached trees, or groupes of two, three, or four together, are the mountain cedar, the spruce silver and balm of Gilead firs, the larix, the smooth stemmed or Weymouth pine, the arbor vitæ, and cypress; the weeping willow, the ash, the maple, western walnut, arbutus, tulip, acacia, oak, elm, and all others that grow in picturesque forms: and whenever they lose their natural shape, either by too quick vegetation, or other accidents, they endeavour to reduce them to an agreeable form, by lopping off their exuberances; or by forcing them into other directions. The Indian, or horse-chestnut, the lime, and some others of a stiff, formal growth, they never use detached; but find them, on account of their rich verdure, their blossom, and abundant foliage, very fit for thickets, woods and avenues.

They have particular plants for the dressed gay parts of the Garden; others in their wilds and scenes of horror; and others appropriated to monuments and ruins; or to accompany buildings of various sorts; according as their properties fit them for these different purposes.

In planting, they are nicely attentive to the natural size of their plants; placing such as are of humble growth in the front; and those that are higher, gradually inwards: that all may be exposed to view at the same time. They appropriate certain plants to low moist situations; and others to those that are dry and lofty; strictly attending therein to Nature: for though a willow, say they, may grow upon a mountain, or an oak in a bog, yet are not these by any means natural situations for either.

When the patron is rich, they consider nothing but perfection in their plantations: but when he is poor, they have also an eye to œconomy; introducing such plants, trees and buildings, into their design, as are not only beautiful, but also useful. Instead of lawns, they have meadows and fields, covered with sheep and other cattle; or lands planted with rice and cotton, or sowed with corn, turneps, beans, peas, hemp, and other things that produce flowers, and variegated pieces of colouring. The groves are composed of all useful kinds of fruit-trees; such as apple, pear, cherry, mulberry, plumb, apricot, fig, olive, filbert, and many others, peculiar to China. The woods are full of timber-trees, useful for fuel and building; which also produce chesnuts, walnuts, acorns, and other profitable fruits and feeds: and both woods and groves abound with game of all sorts.

The shrubberies consist of rose, raspberry, bramble, currant, lavender, vine and gooseberry bushes; with barberry, alder, peach, nectarine and almond trees. All the walks are narrow, and carried under the drip of the trees, and skirts of the plantation, that they may occupy no useful ground: and of the buildings, some are barns for grain or hay; some stables for horses and oxen; some dairies, with their cow-houses and calf-pens; some cottages for the husbandmen, with sheds for implements of husbandry; some are dove-houses; others menageries for breeding poultry; and others stoves and green-houses, for raising early or rare fruits, vegetables and flowers: all judiciously placed, and designed with taste, though in a rustic style.

The lakes and rivers are well stored with fish and water-fowl: and all the vessels contrived for fishing,

hunting, and other sports that are profitable as well as entertaining. In their borders they plant, instead of flowers, sweet herbs, celery, carrots, potatoes, strawberries, scarlet beans, nasturtiums, endive, cucumbers, melons, pine-apples, and other handsome fruits and vegetables: and all the less sightly productions for the kitchen, are carefully hid behind espaliers of fruit-trees.—Thus, they say, that every farmer may have a Garden without expence; and that if all land-holders were men of taste, the world might be formed into one continued Garden, without difficulty.

Such is the substance of what I have hitherto collected relative to the Gardens of the Chinese. My endeavour, in the present Publication, has been to give the general outline of their style of Gardening, without entering into trifling particulars, and without enumerating many little rules of which their artists occasionally avail themselves; being persuaded that, to men of genius, such minute discriminations are always unnecessary, and often prejudicial, as they burden the memory, and clog the imagination with superfluous restrictions.

The dispositions and different artifices mentioned in the preceding pages, are those which are chiefly practised in China, and such as best characterize their style of Gardening. But the artists of that country are so inventive, and so various in their combinations, that no two of their compositions are ever alike: they never copy nor imitate each other; they do not even repeat their own productions; saying, that what has once been seen, operates feebly at a second inspection; and that whatever bears even a distant resemblance to a known object, seldom excites a new idea. The reader is therefore

not to imagine that what has been related is all that exists; on the contrary, a considerable number of other examples might have been produced: but those that have been offered, will probably be sufficient, more especially as most of them are like certain compositions in music, which, though simple in themselves, suggest, to a fertile imagination, an endless succession of complicated variations.

To the generality of Europeans many of the foregoing descriptions may seem improbable; and the execution of what has been described, in some measure impracticable: but those who are better acquainted with the East, know that nothing is too great for Eastern magnificence to attempt; and there can be few impossibilities, where treasures are inexhaustible, where power is unlimited, and where munificence has no bounds.

European artists must not hope to rival Oriental splendor; yet let them look up to the sun, and copy as much of its lustre as they can, circumstances will frequently obstruct them in their course, and they may often be prevented from soaring high: but their attention should constantly be fixed on great objects; and their productions always demonstrate, that they knew the road to perfection, had they been enabled to proceed on the journey.

Where twining serpentine walks, scattering shrubs, digging holes to raise mole-hills, and ringing never-ceasing changes on lawns, groves and thickets, is called Gardening, it matters little who are the Gardeners; whether a peasant or a Pouffin; whether a child in sport, or a man for hire: the meanest may do the little there is to be done, and

the best could reach no farther. But wherever a better style is adopted, and Gardens are to be natural, without resemblance to vulgar Nature; new without affectation, and extraordinary without extravagance: where the spectator is to be amused, where his attention is constantly to be kept up, his curiosity excited, and his mind agitated by a great variety of opposite passions; there Gardeners must be men of genius, experience and judgment; quick in perception, rich in expedients, fertile in imagination, and thoroughly versed in all the affections of the human mind.

A N
HEROIC EPISTLE,

IN ANSWER TO

SIR WILLIAM CHAMBERS,
KNIGHT, &c. &c.

7

P R E F A C E.

THIS Poem was written last summer, immediately after the publication of Sir William Chambers's Dissertation; but the bookseller, to whom it was offered, declined publishing it, till the town was full. His reason for this is obvious; yet it would hardly have weigh'd with the author, had he not thought, that his hero's fame would increase in proportion to his publisher's profit. However he foresaw, that, by this delay, one inconvenience might arise, which this preface is written to remove. Readers of the present generation are so very inattentive to what they read, that it is probable, one half of Sir William's may have forgotten the principles which his book inculcates. Let these, then, be reminded, that it is the author's profest aim in extolling the taste of the Chinese, to condemn that mean and paltry manner which Kent introduced, which Southcote, Hamilton, and Brown followed, and which, to our national disgrace, is called the English style of gardening. He shews the poverty of this taste, by aptly comparing it to a dinner, which consisted of three gross pieces, three times repeated; and proves to a demonstration, that Nature herself is incapable of pleasing, without the assistance of Art, and that too of the most luxuriant kind. In short, such art as is displayed in the Emperor's garden of Yven-Ming-Yven, near Pekin; where fine lizards, and fine women, human giants, and giant baboons, make but a small part of the superb scenery. He teaches us, that a per-

P R E F A C E.

fect garden must contain within itself all the amusements of a great city; that *Urbs in rure*, not *Rus in urbe* is the thing, which an improver of true taste ought to aim at. He says—but it is impossible to abridge all that he says:—Let this therefore suffice, to tempt the reader again to peruse his invaluable Dissertation, since without it, he will never relish half the beauties of the following epistle; for (if her Majesty's Zebra, and the powder-mills at Hounslow be excepted) there is scarce a single image in it, which is not taken from that work.

But though the images be borrowed, the author claims some small merit from his application of them. Sir William says too modestly, "that European artists must not hope to rival Oriental splendor." The poet shews, that European artists may easily rival it; and, that Richmond gardens, with only the addition of a new bridge to join them to Brentford, may be new modelled, perfectly *à la Chinois*. He exhorts his Knight to undertake the glorious task, and leaves no cause to doubt, but that, under the auspicious patronage he now so justly enjoys, added to the *ready* vote of those, who furnish ways and means, the royal work will speedily be completed.

Knightbridge, Jan. 20th, 1773.

AN HEROIC EPISTLE,

IN ANSWER TO

Sir WILLIAM CHAMBERS, Knight, &c. &c.

K N I G H T of the Polar Star ! by Fortune plac'd
To shine the Cynosure of British taste ;
Whose orb collects, in one refulgent view,
The scatter'd glories of Chinese Virtù ;
And spread their lustre in so broad a blaze, 5
That Kings themselves are dazzled while they gaze.
O let the Muse attend thy march sublime,
And, with thy prose, caparison her rhyme ;
Teach her, like thee, to gild her splendid song,
With scenes of Yven-Ming, and sayings of Li-
Tsong ; 10

NOTES.

Verse 2. [Cynofure of British taste.] Cynofure, an affected phrase. Cynofura is the constellation of Urfa Minor, or the Lesser Bear, the next star to the Pole. Dr. Newton, on the word in Milton.

Verfe 10. [With scenes of Yven-Ming.] One of the Imperial gardens at Pekin. [Sayings of Li-Tsong.] "Many trees, shrubs, and flowers," sayeth Li-Tsong, a Chinese author of great antiquity, "thrive best in low, moist situations; many on hills and moun-

Like thee to scorn Dame Nature's simple fence;
 Leap each Ha Ha of truth and common sense;
 And proudly rising in her bold career,
 Demand attention from the gracious ear
 Of Him, whom we and all the world admit, 15
 Patron supreme of science, taste, and wit.
 Does Envy doubt? Witness ye chosen train!
 Who breathe the sweets of his Saturnian reign;
 Witness ye H*lls, ye J*ns*ns, Sc*ts, S*bb*s,
 Hark to my call, for some of you have ears. 20
 Let D**d H*e, from the remotest North,
 In see-saw sceptic scruples hint his worth;
 D**d, who there supinely deigns to lye
 The fattest Hog of Epicurus' sty;
 Tho' drunk with Gallic wine, and Gallic praise, 25
 D**d shall bless Old England's halcyon days;
 The mighty Home bemin'd in prose so long,
 Again shall stalk upon the stilts of song;
 While bold Mac-Ossian, wont in ghosts to deal,
 Bids candid Smollet from his coffin steal; 30

N O T E S.

tains; some require a rich soil; but others will grow on clay, in sand, or even upon rocks, and in the water: to some a sunny exposition is necessary; but for others the shade is preferable. There are plants which thrive best in exposed situations, but in general, shelter is requisite. The skilful gardener, to whom study and experience have taught these qualities, carefully attends to them in his operations; knowing that thereon depend the health and growth of his plants; and consequently the beauty of his plantations." Vide Diss. p. 53. The reader, I presume, will readily allow, that he never met with so much recondite truth, as this ancient Chinese here exhibits.

Bids Mallock quit his sweet Elysian rest,
 Sunk in his St. John's philosophic breast,
 And, like old Orpheus, make some strong effort
 To come from Hell, and warble *truth at Court*.

There was a time, "in Escher's peaceful grove, 35
 "When Kent and Nature vy'd for Pelham's love,"
 That Pope beheld them with auspicious smile,
 And own'd that Beauty blest their mutual toil.
 Mistaken Bard! could such a pair design
 Scenes fit to live in thy immortal line? 40
 Hadst thou been born in this enlighten'd day,
 Felt, as we feel, Taste's oriental ray,
 Thy satire sure had given them both a stab,
 Call'd Kent a Driveller, and the Nymph a Drab.
 For what is Nature? Ring her changes round, 45
 Her three flat notes are water, plants, and ground;

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Verse 34. [Truth at Court.] Vide (if it be extant) a poem under this title, for which (or for the publication of Lord Bolingbroke's philosophical writings) the person here mentioned, received a considerable pension in the time of Lord B—te's administration.

Verse 45. [For what is Nature?] This is the great and fundamental axiom, on which oriental taste is founded. It is therefore expressed here with the greatest precision, and in the identical phrase of the great original. The figurative terms, and even the explanatory simile, are entirely borrowed from Sir William's Dissertation. "Nature (says the Chinese, or Sir William for them) affords us but few materials to work with. *Plants, ground, and water*, are her only productions; and, though both the forms and arrangements of these may be varied to an incredible degree, yet have they but few striking varieties, the rest being of the nature of *changes rung upon bells*, which, though in reality different, still produce the same uniform kind of *gingling*; the variation being too minute to be easily perceived." "Art must therefore supply the *scantiness of Nature*." &c. &c. page 13. And again, "Our larger works are only a repetition of the small ones,

Prolong the peal, yet spite of all your clatter,
 The tedious chime is still ground, plants, and water,
 So, when some John his dull invention racks,
 To rival Boodle's dinners, or Almack's, 50
 Three uncouth legs of mutton shock our eyes,
 Three roasted geese, three butter'd apple-pies.

Come then, prolific Art, and with thee bring
 The charms that rise from thy exhaustless spring;
 To Richmond come, for see, untutor'd Brown 55
 Destroys those wonders which were once thy own.
 Lo, from his melon-ground the peasant slave
 Has rudely rush'd, and levell'd Merlin's Cave;
 Knock'd down the waxen Wizzard, seiz'd his wand,
 Transform'd to lawn what late was Fairy land; 60
 And marr'd, with impious hand, each sweet design
 Of Stephen Duck, and good Queen Caroline.
 Haste, bid yon live-long Terras re-ascend,
 Replace each vista, straighten every bend;
 Shut out the Thames; shall that ignoble thing 65
 Approach the presence of great Ocean's King?
 No! let Barbaric glories feast his eyes,
 August Pagodas round his palace rise,

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like the honest Bachelor's feast, which consisted in nothing but a multiplication of his own dinner; three legs of mutton and turneps, three roasted geese, and three buttered apple-pies." Preface, page 8.

Verse 67. [No! let Barbaric glories.] So Milton.

"Where the gorgeous East with richest hand
 Showers on her Kings Barbaric pearl and gold."

And finish'd Richmond open to his view,
 " A work to wonder at, perhaps a" Kew. 70

Nor rest we here, but, at our magic call,
 Monkeys shall climb our trees, and lizards crawl ;
 Huge dogs of Tibet bark in yonder grove,
 Here parrots prate, there cats make cruel love ;
 In some fair island will we turn to grass 75
 (With the Queen's leave) her elephant and ass.
 Giants from Africa shall guard the glades,
 Where hiss our snakes, where sport our Tartar
 maids ;
 Or, wanting these, from Charlotte Hayes we bring,
 Damsels alike adroit to sport and sting. 80

Now to our lawns of dalliance and delight,
 Join we the groves of horror and affright :
 This to atchieve no foreign aids we try,
 Thy gibbets, Bagshot ! shall our wants supply ;

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Verse 72. [Monkeys shall climb our trees.] " In their lofty woods *serpents* and *lizards* of many beautiful sorts crawl upon the ground. Innumerable *monkeys*, *cats*, and *parrots* clamber upon the trees." Page 29. " In their lakes are many *islands*, some small, some large, amongst which are often seen stalking along, *the elephant*, the rhinoceros, the dromedary, ostrich, and the giant baboon." Page 46. " They keep in their enchanted scenes, a surprizing variety of monstrous birds, reptiles, and animals, which are tamed by art, and guarded by enormous *dogs of Tibet* and *African giants*, in the habits of magicians." Page 31. " Sometimes in this romantic excursion, the passenger finds himself in extensive recesses, surrounded with arbors of jessamine, vine, and roses ; where beauteous *Tartarean damsels*, in loose transparent robes that flutter in the air, present him with rich wines, &c. and invite him to taste the sweets of retirement, on Persian carpets, and beds of Camusathkin down." Page 29.

Verse 84. [Thy gibbets, Bagshot !] " Their scenes of terror are composed of gloomy woods, &c. *gibbets*, crosses, wheels, and the

Hounslow, whose heath sublimer terror fills, 85
 Shall with her gibbets lend her powder-mills.
 Here too, O King of Vengeance, in thy fane,
 Tremendous Wilkes shall rattle his gold chain;
 And round that fane on many a Tyburn tree,
 Hang fragments dire of Newgate-history; 90
 On this shall H*ll*d's dying speech be read,
 Here B—te's confession, and his wooden head;
 While all the minor plunderers of the age
 (Too numerous far for this contracted page)
 The R*g*ys, Mungos, B*ds*ws there, 95
 In straw-stufft effigy, shall kick the air.

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whole apparatus of torture are seen from the roads. Here too they conceal in cavities, on the summits of the highest mountains, founderies, lime-kilns, and glass-works, which send forth large volumes of flame, and continued columns of thick smoke, that give to these mountains the appearance of Volcanoes." Page 27. "Here the passenger, from time to time, is surprized with repeated shocks of electrical impulse; the earth trembles under him by the power of confined air," &c. Page 29. Now to produce both these effects, viz. the appearance of volcanoes and earthquakes, we have here substituted the occasional explosion of a *powder-mill*, which (if there be not too much simplicity in the contrivance) it is apprehended will at once answer all the purposes of *lime-kilns*, and *electrical machines*, and imitate *thunder*, and the *explosion of cannon* into the bargain. Vide page 29.

Verse 87. [Here too, O King of Vengeance, &c.] "In the most dismal recesses of the woods, are temples dedicated to the *King of Vengeance*, near which are placed pillars of stone, with *pathetic descriptions of tragical events*; and many acts of cruelty perpetrated there by *cutthroats and robbers*." Page 28.

Verse 88. [Tremendous Wilkes.] This was written while Mr. Wilkes was Sheriff of London, and when it was to be feared he would rattle his chain a year longer as Lord Mayor.

But say, ye powers, who come when Fancy calls,
 Where shall our mimic London rear her walls?
 That Eastern feature, Art must next produce,
 Tho' not for present, yet for future use; 100
 Our sons some slave of greatness may behold,
 Cast in the genuine Asiatic mould;
 Who of three realms shall condescend to know
 No more than he can spy from Windsor's brow;
 For Him that blessing of a better time, 105
 The Muse shall deal awhile in brick and lime;
 Surpass the bold ΑΔΕΛΦΙ in design,
 And o'er the Thames fling one stupendous line
 Of marble arches, in a bridge, that cuts
 From Richmond Ferry slant to Brentford Butts. 110
 Brentford with London's charms will we adorn;
 Brentford, the bishoprick of Parson Horne.
 There at one glance, the royal eye shall meet
 Each varied beauty of St. James's Street;

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Verse 98. [Where shall our mimic London, &c.] "There is likewise in the same garden, viz. Yven-Ming-Yven, near Pekin, a fortified town, with its port, streets, publick squares, temples, markets, shops, and tribunals of justice; in short, with every thing that is at Pekin, only on a smaller scale."

"In this town the Emperors of China, who are too much the slaves of their greatness to appear in publick, and their women, who are excluded from it by custom, are frequently diverted with the hurry and bustle of the capital, which is there represented, several times in the year, by the eunuchs of the palace." Page 24.

Verse 109. [Of marble arches.] See Sir William's enormous account of Chinese bridges, too long to be here inserted. Vide page 38.

Stout T*lb*t there shall ply with hackney chair, 115
 And Patriot Betty fix her fruit-shop there.
 Like distant thunder, now the coach of state
 Rolls o'er the bridge that groans beneath its weight.
 The Court have cross'd the stream; the sports begin;
 Now N**l preaches of Rebellion's sin: 120
 And as the powers of his strong pathos rise,
 Lo, brazen tears fall from Sir Fl**r's eyes.
 While skulking round the pews, that babe of grace,
 Who ne'er before at sermon shew'd his face,
 See Jemmy Twitcher shambles; stop! stop thief! 125
 He's stol'n the E* of D*nb*h's handkerchief.
 Let B*rr*t*n arrest him in mock fury,
 And M**d hang the knave without a jury,

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Verse 115. [Stout T*lb*t, &c.] "Some of these eunuchs personate porters." Page 25.

Verse 116. [And Patriot Betty.] "Fruits, and all sorts of refreshments are cried about the streets in this mock city." Vide *ibid.*

Verse 122. [Lo, brazen tears, &c.]

Drew iron tears down Pluto's cheek. Milton.

Verse 125. [See Jemmy Twitcher shambles.] "Neither are thieves, pickpockets and sharpers forgot in these festivals; that noble profession is usually allotted to a good number of the most dexterous eunuchs." Vide page 25.

Verse 127. [Let B*rr*t*n.] "The watch seizes on the culprit." Vide *ibid.*

Verse 128. [And M**d, &c.] "He is conveyed before the Judge, and sometimes severely bastinado'd." *Ibid.*

But hark the voice of battle shouts from far,
 The Jews and Maccaronies are at war: 130
 The Jews prevail, and, thund'ring from the stocks,
 They seize, they bind, they circumcise C*s F*.
 Fair Schw***n smiles the sport to see,
 And all the Maids of Honour cry, Te! He!

Be these the rural pastimes that attend 135
 Great B*nsf*'*k's leisure: these shall best unbend
 His royal mind, whene'er from state withdrawn,
 He treads the velvet of his Richmond lawn;
 These shall prolong his Asiatic dream,
 Tho' Europe's balance trembles on its beam. 140
 And thou, Sir William! while thy plastic hand
 Creates each wonder, which thy Bard has plann'd,
 While, as thy art commands, obsequious rise
 Whate'er can please, or frighten, or surprize,
 O! let that Bard his Knight's protection claim, 145
 And share, like faithful Sancho, Quixote's fame.

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Verse 129. [But hark, &c.] "Quarrels happen—battles ensue." Ibid.

Verse 132. [Circumcise C*s F*.) "Every liberty is permitted, there is no distinction of persons." Ibid.

Verse 134. [And all the Maids of Honour, &c.] "This is done to divert his Imperial Majesty, and the ladies of his train. Vide ibid.

F I N I S.



